

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

January 8, 2007

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2006 meeting.

Motion so passed with Mr. Schaefer abstaining.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence in honor of and respect for our troops around the world.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager, introduced Maria Capriola, the new Assistant to the Town Manager.

Ed Austin, President of the Board of Directors of the Mansfield Retirement Community at Juniper Hill Village and also a town resident, outlined the current efforts of his organization to install a sprinkler system. Currently the organization has enough funds to install a system in all of the 64 units in the main building. He expects that this work will be completed by the end of February. After this work is finished there will still be a number of cottages that do not have sprinklers. The Town is exploring the possibility of applying for a block grant or a HUD grant to help with the cost of completion. Mr. Austin described the recent fire in the cottages, which is reminiscent of the fire two years ago. He complimented the Mansfield Fire Department on not only their quick response to the fire but also their ability to handle the residents with great care.

William "Chip" Jordan, 233 South Eagleville Road, spoke in support of the sprinkler system for Juniper Hill and asked the Town Council to do what they can to assist in the procurement of funds.

Mayor Paterson announced that she had been invited to attend the Governor's Inaugural Ball as a guest of the Jordans to hear their daughter, Amanda, sing the National Anthem. The Mayor complimented Amanda, who is also a volunteer firefighter, on her wonderful performance.

V. PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

1. Four Corners Sewer Project

Earth Tech Project Director, Dennis Setzko, outlined the process used to define the sewer service area in the Four Corners area of town. He stated that the plan is preliminary and subject to changes based on the incorporation of comments from the public.

In response to a question, Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works, commented that the study will continue for a number of months and there will be additional opportunities for public input.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

2. Community/Campus Relations

Matthew Hart, Town Manager, reported that the selection process for a Director of Off Campus Housing is progressing with a second round of interviews to take place soon.

3. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The information provided in the Town Council packet outlines the process for the development of a Master Plan for Water and Wastewater Issues. Mr. Paulhus requested information on the discoloration of water at 1254 and 1250 Stafford Road. Ms. Koehn asked if the town is supportive of the inclusion of an environmental representative on the advisory board.

The Town Manager stated that he would discuss these issues with staff and report back to the Council.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

4. Sprinkler System for Juniper Hill Village

Mr. Hawkins distributed 2 documents, a NFPA report on the reliability of fire sprinklers and a USFA report on fire deaths of children and the elderly. He endorsed the earlier remarks of Mr. Austin. The Town Manager pledged to work with Marcia Zimmer, Executive Director of Juniper Hill, to look for funding for the completion of the fire sprinkler system. John Jackman, Fire Marshall, complimented the Juniper Hill administration on their efforts to be proactive in working to update the facility. Marcia Zimmer announced that soon the complex will have 24-hour security and an alarm system. She also thanked the Fire Department for all their services and support.

5. Mansfield Community Center Membership Development and Marketing Strategies

Curt Vincente, Director of Recreation, updated the Council on the current

membership and attendance status of the Community Center. He noted that even though the total number of members is down attendance has shown a 9.13% increase. Heather DeCarli, Membership Coordinator, reviewed a number of the marketing plans currently underway and said that member retention was the main focus of her work.

6. Proclamation Designating February 2, 2007 as "Wear Red For Women Day"

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective January 8, 2007, to designate February 2, 2007 as "Wear Red For Women Day" in the Town of Mansfield and to authorize the Mayor to issue the proclamation as presented by town staff.

Motion so passed.

7. Amendment to Flexible Benefit Plan

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Clouette seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, effective January 1, 2007, pursuant to Section 9.01 of the Town of Mansfield Supplemental Medical Expense Reimbursement Plan ("Plan"), the Town hereby amends Section 5.02(b) of the Plan by increasing the maximum benefit amount limit eligible for reimbursement for a Plan Year (January 1-December 31) to \$6,000 from the current limit of \$3,000.

Resolved, that the Town Manager of the Town, or any officer of the Town he designates, is authorized to execute whatever written plan amendment is necessary to amend the Plan in accordance with the above resolution.

Motion so passed.

8. Town Sponsored Organic Land Care Effort

The Town Manager explained that in keeping with the sustainability efforts of the Town, we are sponsoring a program designed to make organic land care more prominent in Mansfield. The program is offered in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection and consists of workshops on organic land care.

Members questioned the feasibility of enforcing an ordinance limiting or eliminating the use of certain pesticides. Ms. Koehn will work with the Town Manager to investigate options.

9. 2007 Child Day Care Application

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart, is empowered to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of the Town of Mansfield with the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut for a Daycare Services Grant Program for the Mansfield Discovery Depot, and to affix the corporate seal of the Town.

Motion so passed.

10. Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan Grant

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective January 8, 2007, to authorize the Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart, to execute on behalf of the Town of Mansfield the Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan Grant application and any related documents.

Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works, informed the Council that the properties referenced in the grant do not qualify under FEMA cost/benefit criteria.

Mr. Hawkins withdrew his motion.

VIII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

Previously distributed

IX. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Redding, Chair of the Committee on Committees, moved the reappointment of Joan Christinson-Lagay to the Mansfield Housing Authority for a period ending October 31, 2011.

Motion so passed.

Mr. Haddad reported on the meeting of the Personnel Committee. At that meeting the Town Manager provided an overview of the human resource and labor organizational structures of the Town. The Committee is examining what role they can play in the management of town employees. They also discussed the goals and benchmarks of the Town Manager.

XI. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Hawkins attended a meeting regarding the preliminary report of the wastewater plan. He stated that since it a preliminary report there are still a lot of unanswered questions. He also attended the Agricultural Committee meeting, along with the Mayor and the Town Manager, where they heard an excellent presentation from Elizabeth Moore, Director of the Connecticut Farmland Trust. Her presentation offered new ideas on various ways to preserve farmland.

Mayor Paterson will be attending the Leadership Council meeting sponsored by the National League of Cities. While there she will be participating in round table discussions and asked for input regarding town/university issues. Ms. Koehn asked that the issue of rent control vs. no rent control and the escalating cost of higher education be explored. Mr. Hawkins recommended participants review the web page www.campusfirewatch.org.

XII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Attached

Council members expressed sadness regarding the death of Darren Fegen on New Years

Day. He leaves a wife and 5 children and was an active member of the community. A fund has been established for the family at New Alliance Bank.

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Previously flagged as an area of interest, Matthew Hart asked if the Council was amenable to a presentation on sustainable economic development.

By consensus the Council agreed.

Mr. Haddad suggested that during the upcoming visit by our legislators Council members should concentrate on asking questions about specific areas that affect Mansfield. Members were in agreement with the suggestion.

Mayor Paterson reported that just recently she has contacted Denise Merrill to discuss with her what can be done to open up a better line of communication regarding what she is doing in Hartford and what we need done in the Town of Mansfield. She asked that members come prepared with specifics.

Mr. Schaefer will ask the status of changing the source of fuel for the Middle School legislation.

Mr. Clouette will investigate what the state is proposing to do regarding recycling.

Mr. Hawkins will inquire as to the status of the Fire Service Training Bill.

Ms. Koehn noted that the state is in the process of developing an energy plan for the next 10 years. Based on her reading she can find no municipal input into the process. Ms. Koehn will come prepared to ask questions about the process and the priorities of the plan.

XIV. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. CCM re: CCM Legislative Action Plan- In 2005 Mr. Hawkins was appointed to the Public Safety Committee and since then has had no communication from them. The Town Manager will investigate

12. Chicago Sun-Times "*UConn Builds Its Own Town*"

13. Chronicle '*Military Gets Help From Local Teen*'

14. Chronicle '*Storrs Project Plans Comes Into Focus*'

15. ConnCAN The State of Connecticut Public Education: A 2006 Report Card for Elementary and Middle Schools (excerpt)

16. The Day '*Needed in Storrs: A College Town*'

17. Norwich Bulletin '*College-town Project Makes Sense for UConn*'

18. State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection re: Notice of Intent to Issue General Permits for Various Water Diversion Activities and to Waive Public Hearing- Ms.

Koehn inquired as to what effect these regulatory changes will have in Mansfield? The Town Manager will report back.

19. UConn Daily Campus '*Paterson Appointed As Board Member*'

20. T. Veillette re: Hunting Lodge Road Bikeway/Walkway

21. William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund re: Mansfield Discovery Grant

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to move into Executive Session.

Motion so passed.

Issue: Personnel

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding, Schaefer

Also Present: Matthew Hart, Chief Dave Dagon

Issue: Open Space Acquisition

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding, Schaefer

Also Present: Matthew Hart

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion so passed.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk